access to space

http://accesstospace.nasa.gov

Fall 2000

New Release Now On Line!

The Access To Space (ATS) group at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center announces the new release and fresh, new look of the interactive Mission Design web site. The site provides information and tools necessary to assist mission planners in selecting and planning their ride to space. New features you'll find in this release include:

- Shuttle Carrier Information Toolboxes
- Shuttle Carriers Search Tool
- Alphabetical "Quick-Query" in the Mission Database - ***User Suggestion***
- Data Trending Plots from the Mission Database
- Auto-Alerts Enhanced! - ***User Suggestion***
- Improved Navigation Menus

Come visit our site and check out all of the new features and new look! If you are a new visitor, please take a moment to register with us.

Consider Shuttle Carriers – Mariann Albjerg, *NASA/GSFC Access To Space Team Member*

The ATS web site has been updated to include key information on Shuttle Carriers. These carrier systems were built by the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) to accommodate of a variety of payload objectives. Over the years they have developed into successful user-friendly programs providing launch services with a proven track record for outstanding science and technology payloads using the Space Shuttle, Space Transportation System (STS).

The Get Away Special (GAS), was the first standard Shuttle carrier developed by the GSFC Shuttle Small Payloads Project (SSPP). With a test flight on STS-3 in 1982, this successful initiative provided a cost effective, standard interface to the Shuttle for small self-contained payloads weighing up to 200 lbs. The increasing demand for meeting payload unique requirements, encouraged the development of the HitchHiker (HH) carrier, offering additional standard services. The Shuttle Small Payloads can be mounted on the sidewall or on a bridge structure across the Space Shuttle cargo bay with the flexibility to meet unique payload mass and viewing requirements.

The Spartan Project offers expertise in satellite payload carriers that can be deployed and retrieved using the Shuttle's Remote Manipulator System (RMS). The Spartan carrier will allow micro gravity sample processing and observation away from the Space Shuttle environment, for later retrieval and sample return. Spartan made its first Shuttle flight in June 1985 and has a high performance record in meeting mission objectives.

Finally, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope (HST) Flight Systems and Servicing Project has developed carrier systems already qualified for manned space flight with the capability to meet a wide range of new mission and payload requirements. This carrier class will support dedicated Shuttle flight payloads occupying the entire Shuttle cargo bay. In addition to 3 successful servicing missions to HST, these shuttle carriers originated early with the Shuttle program for the Solar Maximum Repair Mission in 1984.

The GSFC carriers attached to the Space Shuttle cargo bay, have served missions representing Universities, Commercial Industry and NASA enterprises and can meet unique payload requirements for crew interaction, on orbit research, payload deployment/retrieval, on-orbit repair/servicing, on-orbit assembly, and cargo return. All programs are fine-tuned to the Shuttle integration process and sponsor NASA's objectives for low cost access to space for new technology demonstration within earth and space science as well as supporting education initiatives.

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